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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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# **MESA FELON SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON AND FINED \$20,000 FOR POSSESSION OF OVER 30 FIREARMS INCLUDING 5 MACHINEGUNS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on May 31, 2002, ROBERT WILSON STEWART, DOB April 24, 1939, of Mesa, Arizona, was sentenced to five (5) years in prison, and ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine and perform 500 hours of community service, by United States District Judge Roslyn O. Silver, in Phoenix, Arizona. On January 23, 2002, Stewart was found guilty of five counts of Unlawful Possession of Machineguns in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(o) and one count of Felon in Possession Firearms in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), by a federal jury at Phoenix, Arizona.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Stewart has a 1994 felony conviction for the unlawful possession of a Sten machinegun in Federal District Court, District of Utah. On June 16, 2000, special agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms executed a federal search warrant at Stewart's residence in Mesa, Arizona. In the course of the search, the agents found 5 Sten machineguns, loaded 9 mm machinegun magazines and additional Sten machinegun parts in a detached garage. The agents also found

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26 additional firearms including a .50 caliber handgun, multiple semi-automatic AK-47 style rifles, a loaded handgun in Stewart's car and a loaded 12 gauge "Street Sweeper" shotgun with a drum magazine near the front door of the detached garage where Stewart stored his five Sten machineguns.

At sentencing, Judge Silver also found that Stewart had possessed an additional machinegun and a handgun within one year of his release from prison in 1995. At that time, Stewart was serving a term of supervised release under his first Sten machinegun conviction.

Stewart was taken into custody after the guilty verdicts were returned and was remanded by Judge Silver to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons after sentencing.

The investigation leading to the sentencing was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms with assistance from the Mesa, Arizona, Police Department.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-698-PHX-ROS  
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